
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON
MANAGING THE COMMERCIAL TAKING OF AQUARIUM FISH.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is known for its beautiful reef
2 environment; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that Hawaii's marine
5 resources are proactively managed to protect our reef and fish
6 populations in the future; and
7

8 WHEREAS, it is important to preserve the long-term
9 sustainability of aquatic life and to manage Hawaii's commercial
10 fisheries at sustainable levels; and
11

12 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Land and Natural
13 Resources's Report on the Findings and Recommendations of
14 Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management
15 Area, continued expansion of the aquarium fish collecting
16 industry would not be sustainable; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the report recommended measures that should be
19 taken, such as a limited entry aquarium fish permit program, to
20 curtail possible unsustainable expansion of commercial aquarium
21 fish taking in the future; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
26 Land and Natural Resources is requested to establish a working
27 group to provide recommendations on managing the commercial
28 taking of aquarium fish; and
29



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to:

- 3
- 4 (1) Make recommendations for the establishment of a
5 limited entry permit program for the commercial taking
6 of aquarium fish;
7
- 8 (2) Make recommendations for the development of
9 administrative rules to be adopted that establish bag
10 limits for the commercial taking of aquarium fish;
11
- 12 (3) Determine the feasibility of issuing separate permits
13 for commercial fishing and the commercial taking of
14 aquarium fish;
15
- 16 (4) Determine an appropriate fee structure for a
17 commercial taking of aquarium fish permit;
18
- 19 (5) Identify potential enforcement issues related to
20 administrative rules regulating the taking of aquarium
21 fish;
22
- 23 (6) Explore measures to maintain current sustainability
24 levels and limit expansion of overfishing; and
25
- 26 (7) Examine any other pertinent issues related to the
27 commercial taking of aquarium fish; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following persons are
30 requested to participate in the working group:

- 31
- 32 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
33 Resources, who is requested to serve as the
34 chairperson of the working group;
35
- 36 (2) A marine biologist from the Aquatic Resources Division
37 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to be
38 appointed by the chairperson of the working group;
39
- 40 (3) A representative from the conservation marine
41 resources industry, to be invited by the chairperson
42 of the working group;
43



1 (4) A fishing permit holder in West Hawaii, to be invited
2 by the chairperson of the working group;
3

4 (5) A fishing permit holder in Oahu, to be invited by the
5 chairperson of the working group;
6

7 (6) A representative from the National Oceanic and
8 Atmospheric Administration, to be invited by the
9 President of the Senate; and
10

11 (7) A representative from the West Hawaii Fisheries
12 Council, to be invited by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
16 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
19 of 2016; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
23 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
24 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources who, in
25 turn, is requested to widely distribute the Concurrent
26 Resolution to the other entities mentioned therein and to other
27 interested persons.

